Pressure on US administration in declaring Pakistan Sponsor of terrorism

528. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is pressure on US Administration that they must be prepared to follow through with the threat of declaring Islamabad, a State Sponsorer of terrorism; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Government is aware that concerns on Pakistan's links with terorrist organisations and its support for cross-border terrorism in India continue to be raised with the US Administration, including by members of the US Congress and the US National Commission on Terrorism, which released its report in June 2000. In this context, the International Relations Committee of the US House of Representatives held a Hearing on 12th July on 'Global Terrorism and South Asia'.

(b) At the Hearing on 12th July, US State Department Co-ordinator for Counter-terrorism said with regard to Pakistan that "Pakistan has tolerated terrorists living and moving freely within its territory. Numerous Kashmiri separatist groups and sectarian groups involved in terrorism use Pakistan as a base... They co-operate, but they also have policies that are very troubling to us". However, the US Government has stated that it has not made a legal determination with regard to Pakistan's sponsorship of terrorism. The process remains under review. Government will continue to draw the attention of the international community, including that of the United States, to Pakistan's sponsorship and support to cross-border terrorism in India.